

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

Council

May 9, 2008

President  
Robert L. Hendren, D.O.

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

President-Elect  
Laurence L. Greenhill, M.D.

Secretary  
David B. Herzog, M.D.

Dear Chairman Miller:

Treasurer  
William Bernet, M.D.

On behalf of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), I thank you for introducing the **Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008** (HR 5876) and for holding a hearing on the marketing and deceptive practices of some of these programs. The AACAP was honored to have our member, Chris Bellonci, M.D., testify before your committee last month on this important issue.

Chair, Assembly  
of Regional Organizations  
of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Martin J. Drell, M.D.

Past President  
Thomas F. Anders, M.D.

The AACAP is the leading national medical association of child and adolescent psychiatrists dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for the estimated 7-12 million American youth under 18 years of age who are affected by emotional, behavioral, developmental and mental disorders.

David R. DeMaso, M.D.  
J. Michael Houston, M.D.  
Christopher J. Kratochvil, M.D.  
Louis J. Kraus, M.D.  
Alice R. Mao, M.D.  
Melvin D. Oatis, M.D.  
Kenneth M. Rogers, M.D.  
Eugenio M. Rothe, M.D.  
Aradhana Sood, M.D.  
Dorothy E. Stubbe, M.D.

HR 5876 takes an important first step in creating national standards and guidelines for private residential programs. These standards integrate new training requirements for program staff members, including how to identify and report child abuse. The bill would also require the Department of Health and Human Services to inspect the program facilities and issue penalties for violations. This legislation would help end the horrendous abuse that can unfortunately occur in private residential programs.

Jerry M. Wiener Resident Member  
Daniel L. Laffleur, M.D.

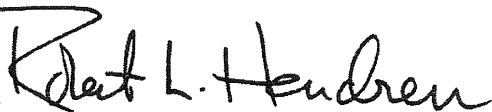
On behalf of AACAP's 8000 members, we commend you for your continued leadership on this issue. We are pleased to support this bill and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its passage. Please contact Kristin Kroeger, Director of Government Affairs, at 202.966.7300, x.108 if you have any questions concerning children's mental health issues.

John E. Schowalter Resident Member  
Anne Frederickson, M.D.

Executive Director  
Virginia Q. Anthony

Sincerely,

Journal Editor  
Andres Martin, M.D.



AACAP News Editor  
WunJung Kim, M.D.

Robert Hendren, D.O.  
President

Program Committee Chair  
Neal Ryan, M.D.

Cc: Ruth Friedman, Ph.D., Sr. Education Policy Advisor, Committee on Education and Labor  
Chris Bellonci, M.D.

3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-3007  
202.966.7300 800.333.7636  
Fax 202.966.2891  
Email: executive@aacap.org  
<http://www.aacap.org>